



LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS
of
KANSAS

January 30, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government, Sen. Elaine Bowers, Chair

RE: SB 57 – Easing communications with political campaign officers and party committees through requiring email addresses in reports to secretary of state – IN SUPPORT.

Dear Sen. Bowers, and members of the Committee;

I am Cille King, Vice-President of the League of Women Voters of Kansas. The League supports SB 57, which requires Campaign Treasurers and Campaign Chairs to provide their email addresses for easier communication.

The League of Women Voters is a 97 year old, volunteer, non-partisan organization which neither supports or opposes candidates or parties. The League encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and for candidates the opportunity to express their views on issues. The League shares candidate information with the public, on the national website: Vote411.org, on our local websites, through youtubes, and hard copies.

The League invites candidates to answer questionnaires and participate in candidate forums. We have found that the lack of email addresses on the candidates' filing information is a huge barrier to inviting candidates to share their positions and for voters to understand candidates' positions. Work that might take our volunteers several hours in contacting candidates, takes several days. We believe that other organizations who do similar candidate contact, have the same barriers.

While SB 57 only addresses Campaign Treasurers and Campaign Chairs, the League would like for this bill to be amended to also require candidates to provide their email addresses when filing to run for any Federal, State or Local office in Kansas.

We thank you for your consideration,

Cille King
Vice-President,
League of Women Voters of Kansas